

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04334 160920Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 SP-02 ONY-00 /035 W
-----161103Z 089024 /13S

R 151635Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6719

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4334

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IS, US
SUBJECT: CONCERN ABOUT U.S. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

REF: TEL AVIV 3848

1. WHEN I CALLED ON ALLON JUNE 15 ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, I POINTED OUT THAT SINCE OUR PREVIOUS MEETING WHEN HE HAD EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS IN ARAB CAPITALS, THERE HAD BEEN A SERIOUS EFFORT IN WASHINGTON TO MEET HIS CONCERNS. I NOTED THE CAREFULLY CRAFTED ATHERTON STATEMENT BEFORE THE HIRC AND TOLD HIM THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD MAKE A MAJOR STATEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I SAID, "YOU HAVE BEEN HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD."

2. ALLON SAID HE APPRECIATED THE RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST AND NOTED THAT HE HAD REPORTED FAVORABLY TO THE CABINET ON ATHERTON'S STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH IT HAD NOT RECEIVED MUCH PUBLICITY. AVINERI WAS ALSO PRESENT AND SUGGESTED THAT SIMILAR CARE IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED IN THE DAYS AHEAD PRIOR TO THE BEGIN VISIT. I SAID I WAS SURE WASHINGTON WOULD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE, ALTHOUGH IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT WE CANNOT ALWAYS CONTROL OUTSIDE EVENTS AND MAY BE REQUIRED TO RESPOND

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TO SOME UNFORSEEN DEVELOPMENT.

3. ALLON THEN SAID HE WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE FACT THAT SHMUEL KATZ HAD BEEN ASKED TO REGISTER AS A FOREIGN AGENT. HE SAID IF HE HAD BEEN ASKED, HE WOULD HAVE ADVISED BEGIN TO INSTRUCT KATZ TO DEPART RATHER THAN REGISTER BECAUSE IT CREATED AN UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT.

ALTERNATIVELY, HE WOULD HAVE ISSUED A DIPLOMATIC PASS-
PORT IF THAT WOULD HAVE HELPED. HOWEVER, HE HAD BEEN
OUT OF JERUSALEM AND HAD HEARD OF THE INCIDENT TOO
LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THE
BACKGROUND OF THE CASE AS I UNDERSTOOD IT AND AGREED
THAT IT APPEARED TO SET A BAD PRECEDENT.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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